

REMARKS

Claims 1-5, 8-19, 21, 23-29, and 31 are pending. Claims 1-6, 8-9, 12-14, 16-17, 19, 23-25, and 27-29 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a). Claims 21 and 26 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b). Claims 7, 10-11, 15, 18, 20, and 30-31 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim. Claims 1, 16, 21, 26, and 31 are currently amended. Claims 6-7, 20, 22, and 30 are cancelled without prejudice.

Claim 7 depends from claim 6 which depends from claim 1. Claim 1 is amended to include the limitations of claims 6 and 7. Claims 6 and 7 are cancelled without prejudice. Thus, claim 1 and depending claims 2-5 and 8-15 are patentable under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a).

Claim 20 depends from claim 16. Claim 16 is amended to include the limitations of claim 20. Claim 20 is cancelled without prejudice. Thus, claim 16 and depending claims 17 and 19 are patentable under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a).

Claim 22 depends from claim 21. Examiner has offered no rationale for rejecting claim 22. Applicants have amended claim 21 to include the limitations of claim 22. In particular, applicants fail to find any disclosure in the cited references of "determining an interference level of at least one channel of the predetermined number of channels; and sending a message indicating that the at least one channel is to be removed to set up a reduced hopping sequence (RHS) that uses less channels than the standard hopping sequence, **wherin the at least one channel is to be replaced with a previous channel in the standard hopping sequence**" as required by amended claim 21. (emphasis added). Thus, applicants believe claim 21 is patentable under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) and depending claims 23-25 are patentable under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a).

Claim 30 depends from claim 26. Claim 26 is amended to include the limitations of claim 30. Claim 30 is cancelled without prejudice. Claim 31 is amended to depend directly from claim 26. Thus, claim 26 is patentable under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) and depending claims 27-29 and 31 are patentable under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a).

In view of the foregoing, applicants respectfully request reconsideration and allowance of claims 1-5, 8-19, 21, 23-29, and 31. If the Examiner finds any issue that is unresolved, please call applicants' attorney by dialing the telephone number printed below.

Respectfully submitted,



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